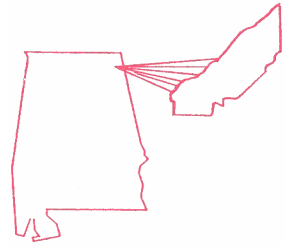




**DeKalb County Association
of Fire Departments Inc.**

111 Grand Ave. Sw. Suite 21
Ft. Payne AL 35967

President Mike Leath Vice-Pres. Stanley Burt
Secretary Troy Colvin Treasurer Pat Cantrell



July 26, 2007

Re: Proposed VHF Rule Change

Dear Sir:

This association represents twenty-six (26) fire departments which protect approximately 59,000 people in an area covering 779 square miles in the rural and mountainous terrain of northeast Alabama. The agencies represented by this association include twenty-four (24) all volunteer departments, one (1) combination department, and one (1) career department, all working with limited budgets.

To achieve personnel notification of an emergency incident, these agencies utilize pagers that receive tones and voice over VHF frequencies. Many different means of notification have been attempted over the years; however, the current arrangement has proved to operate far better in this area. This association, and its member departments, have spent thousands of dollars in its notification system and would be very hard pressed to completely change its current operations.

This association feels that any rule change restricting paging over our VHF frequencies will have an adverse affect on our emergency notification procedures and will hamper our ability to adequately provide services, in a timely manner, to the public we serve. A rule change of this nature will affect every agency within this association and will probably result in increased response times and will certainly increase funding requirements stealing funding for other needed equipment.

The DeKalb County Association of Fire Departments, and its member departments, respectfully request that the *FCC NOT IMPOSE ANY RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF PAGING OVER THE VHF PUBLIC SAFETY FREQUENCIES.*

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Leath, ALEM
President
P.O. Box 680113
Fort Payne, AL 35968
256-845-5333
e-mail: m_leath@bellsouth.net

